

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8344

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PE

SUBJECT: GENERAL STRIKE SUSPENDED

REF: LIMA 0516 (NOTAL)

1. LATE JANUARY 19 THE PERUVIAN COMMUNIST LABOR CONFEDERATION (CGTP) AND ONE SECTION OF THE DIVIDED CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT CONFEDERATION (CNT) SUSPENDED THE 48-HOUR GENERAL STRIKE PLANNED FOR JANUARY 23-24 (REFTEL). LATE NEWS BROADCASTERS INTERRUPTED THEIR PROGRAMS TO READ THE SEPARATE COMMUNIQUE RELEASED BY THE TWO GROUPS AFTER A LST MINUTE ROUND OF TALKS WITH PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ AND OTHER GOP OFFICIALS (PARA 6 REFTEL).

2. CGTP'S COMMUNIQUE, NOTING "THE GRAVITY OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE SITUATION . . . OF WHICH NORTH AMERICAN IMPERIALISM AND ITS AGENT ARE NOT REPEAT NOT UNAWARE (THE ECUADORAN BORDER INCIDENTS) AND THE WRITTEN APPEAL OF PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ, SUSPENDED THE JANUARY 23-24. STRIKE. THE CGTP STATEMENT PROMISED TO CONTINUE PUSHING ITS DEMANDS, ASKED FOR UNDERSTANDING FROM LEADERS WHO HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED ABOUT THIS LATE CHANGE IN PLANS, AND CALLED FOR A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF CGTP DELEGATES FEBRUARY 10.

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THE CNT STATEMENT ATTACKED "FACISM" AND JOINED THE CGTP CALL TO SUSPEND THE STRIKE.

3.COMMENT: THE DECISION TO CALL OFF THE STRIKE WAS INCLUENCED BY THE GOP'S CONCILIATORY ATTITUDE REFLECTED IN MORALES BERMUDEZ' PERSONAL INTERVENTION COUPLED WITH CGTP'S PRIVATE ESTIMATES THAT THE CHANCES FOR THE STRIKE'S SUCCESS

WERE DIMINISHING IT IS TOO SOON TO TELL HOW MUCH THE CANCELLATION
OF THE STRIKE WILL SET BACK THE CGTP AND THE LEFTIST WING OF THE
CNT BECAUSE WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT KNOW WHAT THE GOP UNDERTOOK TO
DO IN RETURN FOR CGTP'S CALLING OFF THE PROTEST NOR TO WHAT
EXTENT THE GOVERNMENT WILL COMPLY WITH ITS UNDERTAKINGS. (THE PRE-
SIDENT'S LETTER IS YET TO BE PUBLISHED). HOWEVER,
GIVEN INTERNAL STRUGGLES BOTH IN AND BETWEEN THE COMMUNIST PARTY
AND THE CGTP, THE CONFEDERATION'S BACKDOWN CAN HARDLY BE
EXPECTED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EFFORTS FOR UNITS. THE OBLIQUE
REFERENCE TO THE PERU/ECUADOR BORDER PROBLEM IS OBVIOUSLY A FACE-
SAVING DEVICE FOR THE CGTP. INTERESTINGLY, THE CGTP AND THE
BANKWORKERS UNION ARE THE ONLY PERUVIAN ENTITIES TO PUBLISH IN
JAN 20 PRES CONDEMNATION OF ECUADOR FOR BORDER INCIDENTS.
SHLAUDEMAM

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